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Extract from Summary and Progress Report of EE-I Projects  
to 31 August 1950

Albania

1. As originally conceived, the Albanian project had as a minimum objective the incitement of internal conflict in Albania in order to reduce Albania's ability to support the Greek guerrillas, and as a maximum objective the overthrow of the Hoxha regime. At the present time there is close policy coordination with the British, but complete operational disengagement.

2. Since the project's approval, two major changes, bearing on it, occurred in the international situation:

a. The cessation of guerrilla warfare in Greece.

b. The intensification of pressure by the Cominform upon the Tito regime which resulted in a corresponding shift in U.S. policy toward Tito designed to maintain the Tito regime as a stumbling-block to the integration of all Communist forces under the complete control of the Kremlin.

These changes altered the conditions upon which the project was based and compelled a review of its objectives.

3. Thus on 6 September 1949 the Department of State and the British Foreign Office agreed that the maximum objective should be temporarily abandoned. The remaining objectives were to be diligently pursued with a view to creating such conditions within Albania as would enable OPC to mount a serious guerrilla offensive to help counteract any Soviet-inspired military action against Tito or any renewal of Communist guerrilla activities in Greece. Current OPC operations against Albania are aimed at supporting resistance, building an agent-net, and recruiting potential resistance leaders. This will permit OPC to foster and exploit the development of any eventual large-scale resistance movement directed at overthrowing the Hoxha regime. Moreover, OPC desires to be ready to mount large-scale guerrilla action should overt Soviet or satellite aggression be launched in Europe. Such an operation may, at the proper moment, be a very effective means of countering a defeatist psychology in Western Europe induced by further Communist aggression.

4. The magnitude

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4. The magnitude and complexities of the operations envisaged - not the least of which was the elimination of the political and personal divergencies among Albanian political leaders-in-exile and bringing those leaders into line for the establishment of the National Committee for Free Albania - have required considerable time. However, during the period under consideration, preparations for a full implementation of the various operations connected with this project have made very substantial progress.

5. The project comprises four lines of operations:

a. The establishment and exploitation of a National Committee for Free Albania as a cover for OPC activities and as a propaganda symbol.

b. The establishment and exploitation of propaganda media, including black broadcasting facilities, a newspaper, and leaflet drops.

c. The organization and training of Albanian agents for infiltration into Albania for purposes of operational reconnaissance and for the establishment and support of underground resistance nets.

d. Economic warfare.

6. Following its establishment, the task of the National Committee for Free Albania was to aid in choosing Albanians suitable for agents to be infiltrated into Albania; to provide personnel and assistance in carrying out the propaganda objectives of the project; and, in general, to furnish support in all phases of the operations and provide cover for the entire project. An office of the National Committee for Free Albania has been established in New York under the auspices of the National Committee for Free Europe. This office is headed by two members of the Executive Committee of the National Committee for Free Albania and, in addition to its other functions, is responsible for the publication of a newspaper in the Albanian language. The European element of the National Committee has its headquarters in Rome.

7. The European element of the National Committee for Free Albania includes a press and propaganda unit organized under OPC guidance, and staffed by three Albanians under the direct control of an American propaganda specialist. This propaganda unit is responsible for the preparation of miscellaneous propaganda material including such items as leaflet texts and cartoons for dissemination in Albania through American and British operational channels.

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8. In addition to the more or less overt propaganda establishment mentioned above, OPC has set up a propaganda center in Greece for the preparation of both Albanian and Bulgarian grey and black propaganda independently of the overt work done by the Committee propaganda unit. This center has presently under its control two mobile short-wave transmitters which are expected to go on the air in late Autumn. In addition, a medium-wave radio transmitter, installed on a vessel cruising in the Ionian or Adriatic seas, will be used for propaganda broadcasts directed at Albania. This vessel will be based in Greece and is capable of operating for periods of up to two weeks before returning to its base for supplies. Broadcasts from this vessel will also commence in late Autumn, possibly around 15 November. As a further supplement to the broadcast vessel and the two mobile transmitters, consideration is being given to the procurement of a 50-kilowatt medium-wave transmitter which will have a greater range than the other equipment mentioned.

9. A propaganda leaflet drop was made on 16 June 1950. One hundred thousand leaflets, prepared by OPC in the U.S., were dropped by aircraft over Albania by the British. Similar leaflets are in process of preparation and as soon as arrangements for regular air support have been completed, one leaflet drop per month will be carried out over Albania.

10. A camp for the collection of Albanians suitable for use as agents for infiltration into Albania has been established in Germany and is operating under the cover of a guard company camp. It now contains approximately two hundred fifty Albanians. A small number of men will be withdrawn from this camp periodically and taken to a covert training school for training. Three instructors are already on the spot and three others are en route for Germany.

11. It is contemplated that five four-men teams of agents will be dropped in Albania by airplane by 30 September. For this purpose a C-47 has been purchased by OPC and will be operated by a Polish crew which is scheduled to report to Germany on 25 August to pick up the plane.

12. Two C-47's have been assigned to OPC by the U.S. Army authorities in Germany to be used for ultra high-frequency ground-air communications with OPC agents operating in Albania. The necessary communication equipment is now being installed in Germany. These aircraft will operate from a base in Greece, and will be flown by U.S. Army personnel.

13. A welfare camp in Greece for exfiltrates from Albania is now being organized. The organization of this camp became necessary

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in order to eliminate the interference of Greek authorities with such exfiltrates -- they are often forced back across the frontier into Albania by Greek border guards -- and to permit OPC to gain custody of Albanian exfiltrates.

14. Because of the primitive nature of the Albanian economy it is not particularly susceptible to economic warfare. Efforts are being made, however, to interfere with Albanian trade through Trieste, and, through propaganda, to discourage the peasants from sending food to the towns.

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